

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator Emeritus

Jim Vlahovich, County Administrator

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Karen Riggs, County Engineer

Karen Lamberton, Transportation Planner

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Community Development

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the follow up to the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Ms. Lamberton gave an overview of the Board's direction given at the March 25th Work Session and handed the Board members a draft letter of support for the Highway 90 bicycle route. She said that key immediate term recommendations would be to update rural roadway design standard, seek to maintain the investment on major corridors, and implement higher classification roadways and higher volume roadways. She noted that any of these recommendations would require additional funding.

Vice-Chairman English asked if a consultant would be needed to perform the recommendation.

Ms. Lamberton said that a consultant would be needed or staff could work on priorities as a phase project. She noted that the current plan was based on urban standards, so it would have to be revised to add rural standards

Vice-Chairman English said that staff needed to research different types of road materials soon in order to give better cost estimates.

Ms. Lamberton discussed current costs and transportation corridors.

Supervisor Searle asked if Fort Grant Road could be added to the maintenance system.

Vice-Chairman English asked if the current system was a big burden on operations.

Ms. Karen Riggs, County Engineer, said that the current system is working as long as staff gets direction from the Board on their priorities.

Ms. Lamberton said that all roads on the system currently were added for a reason, especially access roads leading to airports.

The Board directed staff to make access roads a priority in cases where the venue was widely used by the public.

Ms. Lamberton discussed open range and said that currently the owner is responsible for fencing, but this leaves many county roads with the need for cattle guards, which is a cost to the County.

The Board asked staff to look at different options to address open range.

Ms. Lamberton said that there were no specific studies that applied directly to Cochise County, but staff could conduct a study on County transportation. She noted that costs projected are only to maintain current plan.

Supervisor Searle asked for reasons why the cost for road maintenance was increasing. Ms. Lamberton said that there were several factors: degradation of the roads, lack of funding for adverse weather impacts, and a constant change in legislative policy and priorities.

Chairman Call asked if staff had looked at any funding strategies.

Ms. Lamberton said that one of the best ways to address a tough economic situation with rising road maintenance demands was to allow citizens to vote on a transportation tax. She said that Coconino County had recently undertaken the transportation tax effort and it passed first time around.

Ms. Riggs said that targeted education would have to be done by staff in order to gain validity with public. She added that although grant opportunities did exist they often required a lot of staff time to administer and a County match, which made local revenues a better option to address road maintenance.

Ms. Lamberton said that a comprehensive plan could be developed to focus on current road status, recommended maintenance schedule, and associated costs, along with a transportation tax model to educate citizens.

The Board asked Mr. Vlahovich to add this item to the Board retreat discussion.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board